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Journey Into Mystery #66
March, 1961
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ND.

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY

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10c

"The RETURN of the HULK!"

The Lone Ranger, a Jack Wrather Production, seen every week over TV and sponsored by General Mills Cereals.

DRAW THE LONE RANGER!

Contest Prize:
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Draw the Lone Ranger any size you want except a size that would look like a tracing. Use pencil. Everyone who enters this contest gets a professional estimate of his talent without charge. Winner receives a complete course in advertising art, magazine illustrating, cartooning, or landscape or portrait painting.

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The RETURN of the HULK!

PART 1

THE HULK! TITAN OF TITANS! THE LIVING, BREATHING THREAT FROM THE UNKNOWN, WHO MENACED OUR ENTIRE WORLD! IN A PAST ISSUE OF THIS MAGAZINE YOU READ HIS FANTASTIC EXPLOITS, YOU SAW HOW THE NIGHTMARE GIANT WAS FINALLY DEFEATED! NOW YOU WILL SEE THE HULK'S **INCREDIBLE REVENGE** AS YOU READ **THE RETURN OF THE HULK!!**

A Marble River Scan

INTRODUCTION...

IN A FAR AWAY GALAXY, THE INCREDIBLE CREATURE KNOWN AS **THE HULK**, MADE HIS ESCAPE FROM A DESOLATE PRISON PLANET...

THE FOOLS THOUGHT TO KEEP **THE HULK** A PRISONER, DID THEY?! WELL, NOW THEY **KNOW**-- NOTHING CAN STOP THE **LIVING HULK! NOTHING!!**

BUT THE SHIP CARRYING THE HULK WASN'T POWERFUL ENOUGH TO REACH HIS HOME PLANET... IT BROUGHT HIM ONLY AS FAR AS OUR SOLAR SYSTEM, WHERE IT CRASHED ---- WHERE I FIRST DISCOVERED HIS HALF-HIDDEN GIGANTIC FORM ON THE EDGE OF A REMOTE SWAMP...

I'M AN ELECTRICIAN! I'VE HANDLED A LOT OF DIFFICULT JOBS-- BUT **THIS** --WELL, WHY **NOT**?! MAYBE I **CAN** REVIVE THIS FANTASTIC GIANT-- MAYBE I CAN BRING HIM BACK **TO LIFE!**

NEVER SUSPECTING THE CRUEL, SINISTER NATURE OF THE HULK, I WORKED FEVERISHLY TO HELP HIM REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS! THEN, WHEN IT WAS TOO LATE--WHEN I **BECAME** HIS PRISONER--I LEARNED THE HIDEOUS TRUTH!

BY THE SUPREME POWER OF MY MIND, I AM GOING TO HYPNOTIZE ALL MANKIND! I SHALL TURN THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE INTO SLAVES, WHO LIVE ONLY TO SERVE THEIR MASTER, THE MIGHTY HULK!

WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS, THE FANTASTIC THREAT WAS CARRIED OUT... **EARTH WAS IN BONDAGE!!**

OUR MASTER HAS SPOKEN!

WE SHALL **OBEY!!**

LONG LIVE THE HULK!

I COMMAND YOU TO BUILD ME THE **LARGEST**, MOST POWERFUL SPACESHIP IN THE UNIVERSE! IT MUST BE ABLE TO CARRY ME BEYOND THIS GALAXY--BACK TO MY OWN WORLD!

WHILE A HYPNOTIZED MANKIND WAS BUILDING THE TITANIC SPACESHIP, THE HULK ALLOWED ME TO REMAIN **UNHYPNOTIZED** SO HE COULD DELIGHT IN TELLING ME OF EARTH'S UNBELIEVABLY GRIM FATE!

THE SHIP WILL BE SO LARGE AND POWERFUL THAT THE FORCE OF ITS LAUNCHING WILL SHAKE THE EARTH OFF ITS AXIS... THE PLANET WILL SPIN ERRATICALLY ...AND THE VIBRATIONS WILL INCREASE UNTIL THEY CAUSE YOUR ENTIRE EARTH TO **EXPLODE!**

I **HAD** TO SAVE THE WORLD! I WAS THE ONLY HUMAN WHO WASN'T A HYPNOTIZED SLAVE, SERVING THE HULK! THEN, WHEN EARTH WAS SCANT HOURS AWAY FROM TOTAL ANNIHILATION, I THOUGHT OF A PLAN...

THESE TWO WIRES IN THE SPACESHIP'S CONTROL PANEL... THEY WILL DO THE TRICK... THESE SIMPLE WIRES MAY SAVE ALL OF MANKIND!

THE FOLLOWING MORNING, THE HULK BOARDED THE SHIP AND PREPARED FOR THE BLAST-OFF! BUT WHEN HE PULLED THE STARTER SWITCH, THERE WAS A MIGHTY CHARGE OF VOLTAGE--A SHORT CIRCUIT--WHICH GLUED THE TOWERING MONSTER TO THE CONTROL PANEL WHERE HE WOULD REMAIN **PERMANENTLY!**

THEN, FROM A REMOTE CONTROL CENTER ON THE GROUND, I CHANGED THE SHIP'S LAUNCHING PATTERN, GIVING IT ONLY A **FRACTION** OF THE THRUST IT HAD BEEN SET FOR-- SO THE BLAST-OFF WOULD CAUSE NO HARM TO EARTH!

IT HAS JUST ENOUGH THRUST TO REACH THE **SUN**, WHERE IT'LL GO INTO **ORBIT** AND REMAIN THERE TILL THE SUN ITSELF HAS TURNED TO ASHES!

WHEN THE HULK WAS BEYOND EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE HIS HYPNOTIC SPELL OVER MANKIND **ENDED**, AND THE HUMAN RACE AWAKENED WITH NO MEMORY OF WHAT HAPPENED! I ALONE, WHO HAD BEEN CONSCIOUS THE WHOLE TIME, KNEW THE TRUTH!

TO THE REST OF MANKIND IT'S JUST A NEW SATELLITE IN THE SKY! ONLY **I** KNOW THAT IT'S A SPACESHIP.. AN ETERNAL PRISON FOR THE NOW-HELPLESS HULK!

ETERNAL PRISON, YES, THAT'S WHAT I **THOUGHT** IT WAS! HOW COULD I HAVE DREAMT THAT WITHIN THREE MONTHS, A SMALL ASTEROID WOULD DRIFT TO LESS THAN A HUNDRED YARDS FROM THE HULK'S SPACESHIP!!

I AM TRAPPED IN THIS CABIN, UNABLE TO MOVE... BUT OUT THERE... THAT ASTEROID... IT IS A ONE-IN-A-MILLION CHANCE, BUT I MUST ATTEMPT IT... I **MUST!**

I MUST SUMMON THE LAST REMAINING VESTIGES OF MY GREAT MENTAL POWER... I MUST EXTEND THE ENERGY OF MY MIND OUT--OUT BEYOND THE CONFINES OF THIS SHIP --OUT TO THAT WHIRLING ASTEROID!!

THE IMMOBILE GIANT'S MENTAL ENERGY PENETRATED THE WALL OF HIS SHIP... AND BEAMED OUT THROUGH THE BLACK, AIRLESS EMPTINESS UNTIL IT GRASPED THE SMALL ASTEROID!

I HAVE CAUGHT IT! IT IS RESPONDING TO MY **WILL!** IT IS TURNING! NOW IT IS HEADING TOWARD MY SHIP! I MUST MAKE IT **HIT** AT EXACTLY THE RIGHT ANGLE!

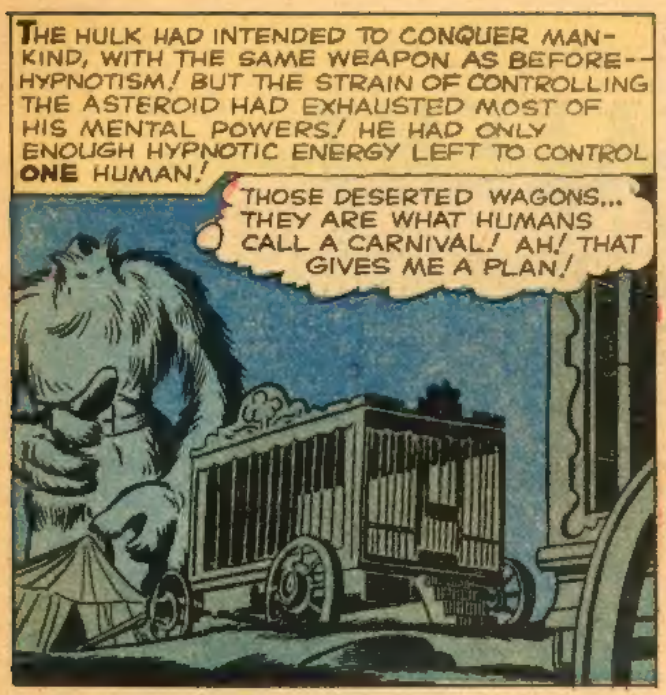
IT **WORKED!!** THE COLLISION THREW THE SHIP OFF ITS COURSE, JUST AS I PLANNED! NOW I'M HEADING BACK--BACK TO THE PLANET **EARTH!!**

AND WHILE THE SLEEPING WORLD SUSPECTED NOTHING, THE NIGHTMARISH HULK CAME CLOSER AND CLOSER TO EARTH!!

THE SHIP IS LANDING JUST WHERE I WANTED--THE UNITED STATES--THE HOME OF THE EARTHLING WHO CAUSED MY DEFEAT!

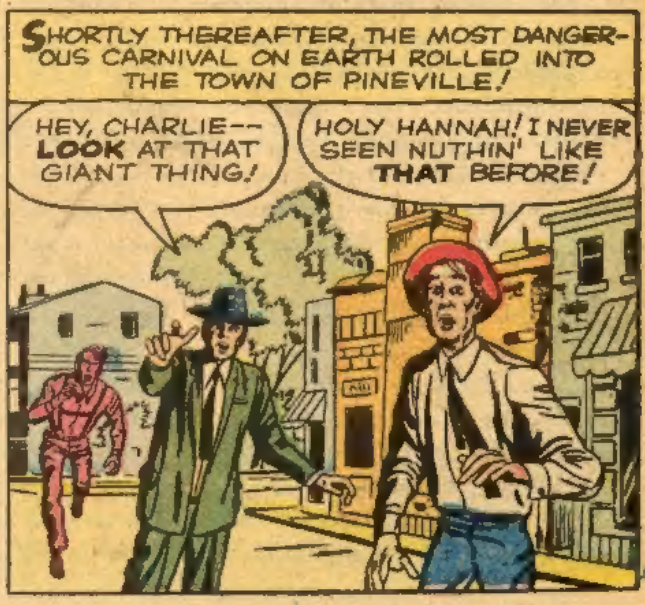
UPON CONTACT WITH EARTH, THE ELECTRICAL CHARGE IMPRISONING THE HULK ENDED! THE MAMMOTH CREATURE WAS **FREE** ONCE AGAIN!

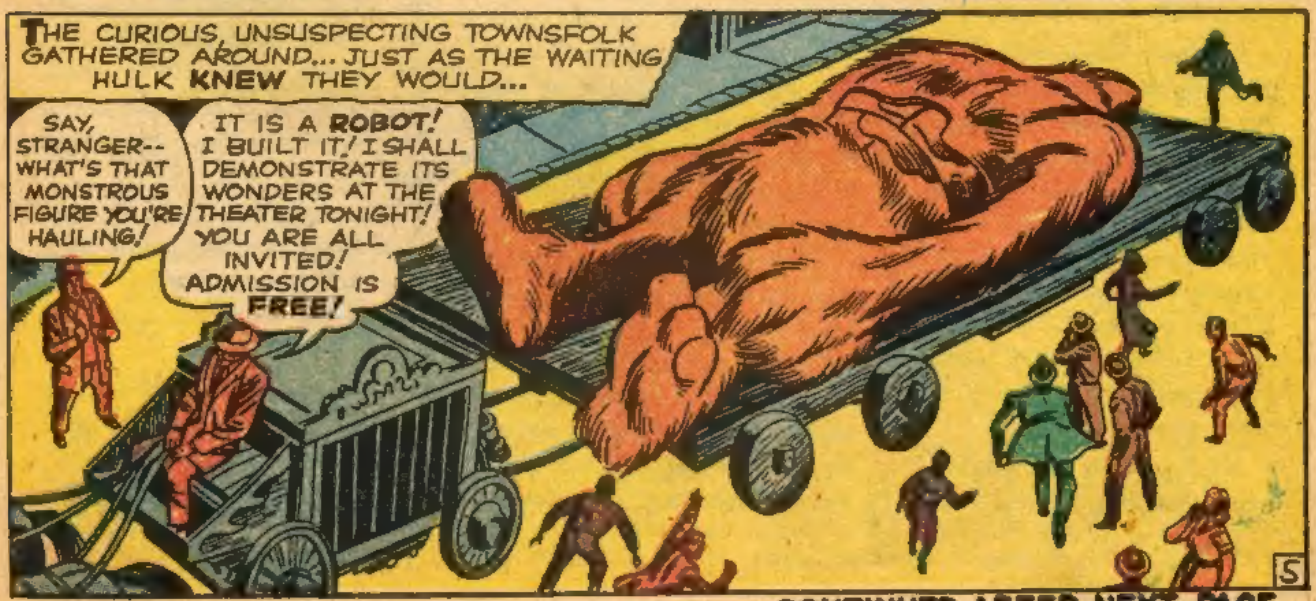
NEVER BEFORE HAVE I **HATED** A FOE AS I HATE THE EARTHLING WHO DEFEATED ME! NEVER BEFORE HAVE I SOUGHT **VENGEANCE** AS I SEEK IT NOW! TAKE HEED, MANKIND! THE HULK HAS RETURNED... AND EARTH IS **DOOMED!!**


THE HULK HAD INTENDED TO CONQUER MANKIND, WITH THE SAME WEAPON AS BEFORE--HYPNOTISM! BUT THE STRAIN OF CONTROLLING THE ASTEROID HAD EXHAUSTED MOST OF HIS MENTAL POWERS! HE HAD ONLY ENOUGH HYPNOTIC ENERGY LEFT TO CONTROL **ONE** HUMAN!
THOSE DESERTED WAGONS... THEY ARE WHAT HUMANS CALL A CARNIVAL! AH! THAT GIVES ME A PLAN!

THE VENGEFUL COLOSSUS LUMBERED MENACINGLY TOWARD THE REMNANTS OF WHAT HAD ONCE BEEN A SUCCESSFUL, MONEY-MAKING CARNIVAL! WHEN HE APPROACHED THE WAGONS, THE OWNER TURNED, AND...
NO--**NO!** WHATEVER YOU ARE--**KEEP BACK!** I'M JUST A POOR MAN...
FEEL MY HYPNOTIC POWER, EARTHLING! I AM YOUR MASTER! YOU WILL OBEY ME!

IT TOOK BUT SECONDS FOR THE MAN TO SINK INTO A DEEP TRANCE...TO BECOME A HELPLESS PAWN OF THE SINISTER HULK!
YOU ARE MY MASTER... YOU ARE WISE AND KIND.. I MUST OBEY YOU IN ALL THINGS!
NOW LISTEN CAREFULLY TO MY **PLAN**...


SHORTLY THEREAFTER, THE MOST DANGEROUS CARNIVAL ON EARTH ROLLED INTO THE TOWN OF PINEVILLE!
HEY, CHARLIE--**LOOK** AT THAT GIANT THING!
HOLY HANNAH! I NEVER SEEN NUTHIN' LIKE **THAT** BEFORE!


THE CURIOUS, UNSUSPECTING TOWNSFOLK GATHERED AROUND... JUST AS THE WAITING HULK **KNEW** THEY WOULD...
SAY, STRANGER--WHAT'S THAT MONSTROUS FIGURE YOU'RE HAULING!
IT IS A **ROBOT!** I BUILT IT! I SHALL DEMONSTRATE ITS WONDERS AT THE THEATER TONIGHT! YOU ARE ALL INVITED! ADMISSION IS **FREE!**
5

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

THE TALENT

THE tramp had a beaten and bedraggled look. The brisk Autumn wind bit into his cheeks and ballooned his baggy trousers. He clutched the collar of his ragged coat tighter around his throat with his free hand while he cradled a cumbersome wicker basket in the crook of his other arm. A gust of wind brushed him back, but he pushed forward to the farmhouse at the end of the path.

He decided that his appearance warranted the side-door approach. He swiped at the wind-produced tears near the corners of his eyes and then rang the bell. Self-consciously, he removed his hat and patted his unruly locks into a semblance of order.

A child's face pressed against the winderpane and then was replaced by a woman's. Uncertainly, she opened the door and studied the stranger suspiciously. "What do you want?" she asked. "We don't need any hired hands, if it's a job you're after. And if you're just a beggar . . ."

"I don't blame you a bit for jumping to conclusions, Ma'am," the man replied respectfully. "I'm afraid my attire doesn't inspire confidence in me. I wasn't really looking for permanent employ, nor would I impose upon you for free food. I was prepared, however, to chop some kindling wood or help with your chores in return for a brief repast."

He saw the woman's eyes narrow in doubt. "Of course," he hastened, "I'd be anxious to perform any task *before* accepting the benefit of your hospitality. I'm sure that you wouldn't turn a hungry man away from your door."

"Let him stay, Mommy," the little boy said. "I like the way he talks and he could help with the kindling. I heard you ask Daddy to make sure we had firewood ready before the cold snap came."

"Thank you for the kind words, son," the stranger said. "Why is it that only animals and small children recognize me as a friend?" He sighed and shook his head.

"Well, perhaps we *can* exchange a hot meal for some honest labor," the woman said. "But first, I want to know what you're hiding in that basket."

"*Sheltering* . . . not hiding," the man corrected. "It's Oswald, my pet Pekinese. He's a faithful companion who's rescued me from despair many times. He's the most self-sacrificing friend I've ever had."

He removed the lid and a small rust-colored Peke cocked his head inquiringly at them and greeted them with a wag of his tail. "How do you do, folks. I'm Oswald. Pleased to make your acquaintance."

The woman and her young son stared in astonishment. Oswald smiled sheepishly and turned apologetically to the stranger. "I'm sorry. I always forget. They're always so startled the first time. You warned me to wait until the ice was broken, but the words slipped out."

The woman fought for her composure. "Very clever, indeed," she managed finally. "For a moment, you had me fooled. I almost thought the little dog was talking, but now I realize that you are far more gifted than your garb might indicate. You're a very talented ventriloquist."

"Same old story," the little man mused. "Nobody ever believes it. They think an untalented old man like me possesses unusual power. They don't realize that dogs can talk. And it's so simple. If they can bark, they can make sounds . . . if they can make sounds and they have a tongue and teeth, they can make words . . . Why don't people realize that *most dogs are just too lazy to learn our language!*"

"Are you trying to insinuate that this dog can talk and that you weren't throwing your voice? Are you trying to make a fool of me?"

"Not for a moment, Ma'am," the little man tried to pacify her. "Most people assume that I'm trying to ridicule them when I speak the simple truth. But you believe me, don't you, son?"

The young boy fixed his eyes on Oswald. I'm not quite sure . . . yet," he said slowly. "May I go inside with him and have a private chat?"

"Sound idea!" the little man beamed. "Oswald will be glad to converse with you."

As the boy and the Peke

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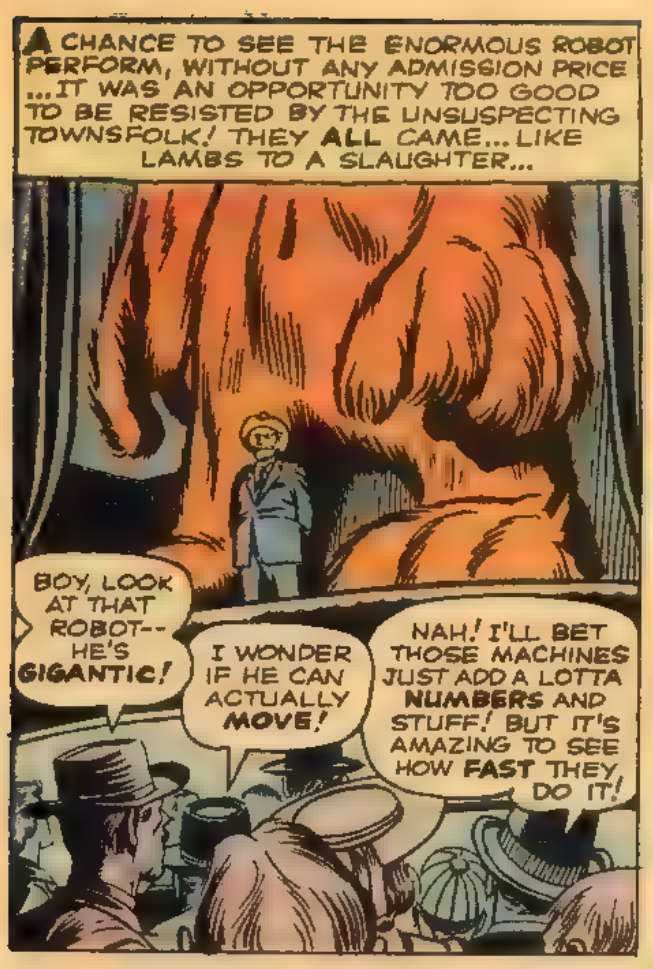
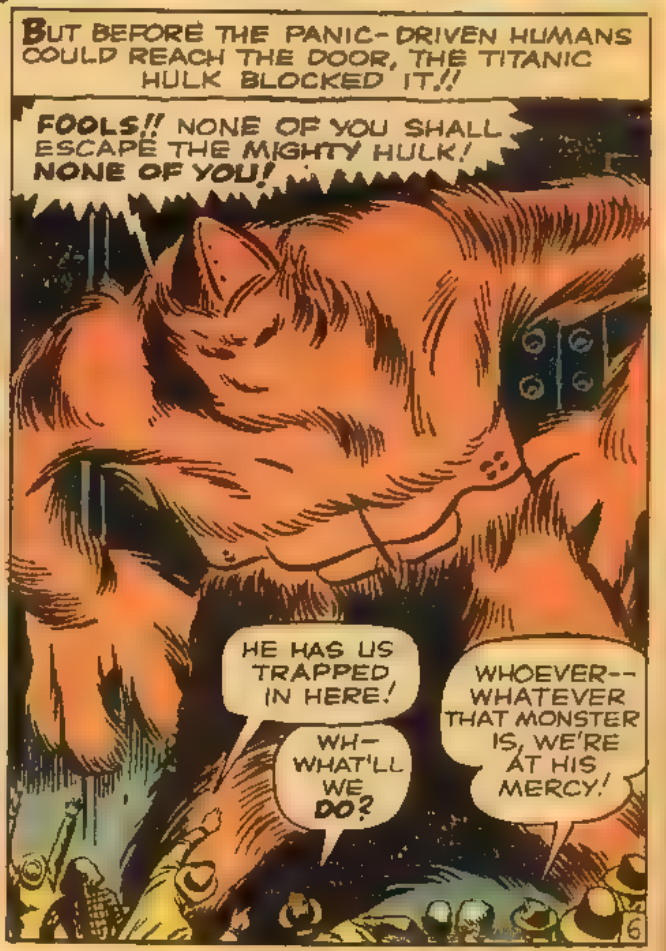

A CHANCE TO SEE THE ENORMOUS ROBOT PERFORM, WITHOUT ANY ADMISSION PRICE ...IT WAS AN OPPORTUNITY TOO GOOD TO BE RESISTED BY THE UNSUSPECTING TOWNSFOLK! THEY ALL CAME... LIKE LAMBS TO A SLAUGHTER...
BOY, LOOK AT THAT ROBOT-- HE'S GIGANTIC!
I WONDER IF HE CAN ACTUALLY MOVE!
NAH! I'LL BET THOSE MACHINES JUST ADD A LOTTA NUMBERS AND STUFF! BUT IT'S AMAZING TO SEE HOW FAST THEY DO IT!

WHEN EVERY SEAT IN THE THEATER WAS FILLED, THE CARNIVAL OWNER TURNED TO THE MOTIONLESS HULK...
THE ENTIRE TOWN IS PRESENT, MASTER, JUST AS YOU COMMANDED!
DID YOU HEAR THAT?! HE CALLED THE ROBOT MASTER!!
HE SAID THE ROBOT COMMANDED HIM!
HEY! WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?? WHAT HAVE WE WALKED INTO??

THEN, WITH THE SUDDENNESS OF A THUNDERCLAP, THE HULK'S MIGHTY VOICE BOOMED ACROSS THE THEATER, AS HE ENDED HIS PRETENSE!
I AM NO ROBOT-- I AM THE HULK-- ENEMY OF EARTH!!
IT'S ALIVE! GASP! ALIVE!!
LET ME OUT OF HERE!


BUT BEFORE THE PANIC-DRIVEN HUMANS COULD REACH THE DOOR, THE TITANIC HULK BLOCKED IT!!
FOOLS!! NONE OF YOU SHALL ESCAPE THE MIGHTY HULK! NONE OF YOU!
HE HAS US TRAPPED IN HERE!
WH-- WHAT'LL WE DO?
WHOEVER-- WHATEVER THAT MONSTER IS, WE'RE AT HIS MERCY!

PART TWO
THE GIGANTIC HULK HAD THE HUMANS TRAPPED INSIDE THE THEATER! BUT FOR HIM THAT WAS NOT ENOUGH! HE WANTED TO COW THE TOWNSFOLK INTO COMPLETE SUBMISSION... SO HE DEMONSTRATED HIS AWESOME STRENGTH... HE HEAVED HIS TOWERING FORM AGAINST THE WALLS AND CEILING... AND LIFTED THE THEATER FROM ITS VERY FOUNDATION!!
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NOW THAT YOU HAVE SEEN THE HULK'S STRENGTH UNLEASHED, HEAR ME WELL, EARTHLINGS! UNLESS YOU OBEY MY EVERY COMMAND TO THE LETTER, I SHALL DESTROY YOUR TOWN, I SHALL LEVEL YOUR HOMES, I SHALL TURN YOUR ENTIRE VALLEY INTO A WASTELAND!
NO--NO! WE'LL OBEY YOU!
YES, WE'LL DO WHATEVER YOU SAY--ONLY SPARE US AND OUR TOWN!
VERY WELL... HERE IS WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO...
AND WHILE THE HULK WAS ISSUING HIS ORDERS... IN A DISTANT TOWN I, THE MAN WHO HAD DEFEATED THE HULK, THE MAN AGAINST WHOM THE HULK HAD SWORN VENGEANCE--I WAS BECOMING MORE FEARFUL WITH EACH PASSING HOUR!
FOR THREE DAYS I HAVEN'T SEEN THE SPACESHIP CIRCLE THE SUN! WHAT COULD'VE HAPPENED TO IT?? MAYBE IT WAS HURLED OUT OF ORBIT... BUT IF SO, WHERE DID IT GO? WHERE??
MY QUESTIONS WERE SOON TO BE ANSWERED... FOR EVEN AT THAT MOMENT, THE PEOPLE OF PINEVILLE WERE CARRYING OUT THE HULK'S ORDERS...
FENCE THE ENTIRE TOWN IN WITH BARBED WIRE! SET UP THE ROAD-BLOCK! NO EARTHLING IS TO ENTER OR LEAVE THIS AREA WITHOUT MY PERMISSION!
AS SOON AS THE TOWN WAS SECURED, THE HULK HAD THE PEOPLE SEND FOR MANY SUPPLIES! HE WAS GOING TO BUILD SOMETHING NEVER BEFORE SEEN ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH!
KEEP WORKING, EARTHMEN! YOU MUST BUILD ME A GIANT STAR-REFLECTOR! I NEED IT TO BUILD UP THE ENORMOUS ENERGY I REQUIRE FOR MASS HYPNOSIS!
BUT A WHOLE TOWN CAN'T BEHAVE ODDLY, WITHOUT OTHERS BECOMING AWARE OF IT!
...AND EXCEPT FOR THAT PECULIAR ASSORTMENT OF SUPPLIES POURING INTO PINEVILLE, THE TOWN HAS VIRTUALLY ISOLATED ITSELF FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD!
THOSE PARTICULAR SUPPLIES COULD BE USED TO BUILD SOME KIND OF REFLECTOR ...THAT'S IT! THE MISSING SPACESHIP, THE FENCED-OFF TOWN, THE SUPPLIES--THEY'RE ALL TIED IN WITH THE HULK!!
8

I KNEW THAT I HAD TO WARN THE WORLD OF ITS DANGER AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE... AND THAT'S WHERE I RAN INTO TROUBLE! FOR EVERYONE EXCEPT ME HAD BEEN IN A HYPNOTIC TRANCE THE FIRST TIME THE HULK WAS ON EARTH! I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO REMEMBERED THE HULK...THE ONLY ONE WHO KNEW THERE WAS A HULK!
HE'S... A LIVING MECHANICAL GIANT FROM ANOTHER PLANET! HE MUST BE STOPPED! HE MUST BE DESTROYED!
SURE...SURE, MAC... NOW BEAT IT BEFORE I CALL THE BOYS IN WHITE!
BUT I TELL YOU THERE IS SUCH A CREATURE AS THE HULK! YOU MUST BELIEVE ME!
MISTER, IF I BELIEVED YOU, WHO'D BELIEVE ME?!!
YOU AND THE REST OF THE WORLD WERE UNDER HYPNOSIS...THAT'S WHY YOU DON'T REMEMBER HIM! BUT HE'S THE GREATEST MENACE IN THE UNIVERSE! AND HE'S HERE ON EARTH!
SORRY, PAL-- THIS WEEK WE'RE NOT IN THE MARKET FOR GIANT HULKS! BUT IF YOU COME ACROSS ANY LITTLE GREEN MEN WITH BUSHY TAILS, LEMME KNOW!
EDITOR
IT'S NO USE! NOBODY WILL BELIEVE ME! IF THE HULK IS GOING TO BE STOPPED, I ALONE MUST BE THE ONE TO DO IT! AND THIS... THIS "WEAPON" IS MY ONLY CHANCE OF DESTROYING THE HULK!
I ARRIVED AT PINEVILLE TWELVE HOURS LATER, ALONE AND FRIGHTENED, BUT DETERMINED TO STOP THE LIVING MONSTER WHOM I MYSELF HAD BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE!
THERE HE IS... AND I WAS RIGHT! HE HAS BUILT A REFLECTOR TO ABSORB ENERGY FROM THE STARS! HE'S INCREASING HIS POWER SO HE CAN DO WHAT HE DID BEFORE -- HYPNOTIZE THE ENTIRE WORLD!
THERE WAS NO TURNING BACK NOW! EVEN IF IT COST ME MY OWN LIFE, I HAD TO STOP THE HULK!
FOR THE SAKE OF ALL MANKIND, I DARE NOT FAIL!
9

WHEN I HAD CRAWLED THROUGH THE BARBED WIRE, I THOUGHT I WAS SAFELY INSIDE THE TOWN! BUT I WAS WRONG!... DEADLY WRONG!
RRRRRRRRRR
I'VE SET OFF AN ALARM!!
RRRRR
RRRRR
THE SCREAMING ALARM ROUSED THE HULK--HE TURNED--HE SAW ME!!
RRRRR
YOU--THE EARTHLING WHO DEFEATED ME!! FOOL! YOU HAD AS WELL DEFY THE STARS THEMSELVES, AS TO AGAIN OPPOSE THE MIGHTY HULK!!
I SAW HIS MASSIVE, LUMBERING FORM... I BEGAN TO RUN...
YOU SHALL NOT ESCAPE! WHEREVER YOU FLEE, I WILL FIND YOU--I WILL CATCH YOU--FOR I AM THE HULK!
I HAD TO STOP A MOMENT, TO THINK, TO PLAN--OTHERWISE I WAS FINISHED, AND SO WAS THE ENTIRE WORLD AS WE KNEW IT!
YOU THINK A MERE STATUE CAN SHIELD YOU FROM THE HULK'S VENGEANCE!
HOW CAN I DO IT... WHAT'S THE BEST WAY...??
THERE IS NO BARRIER IN THE UNIVERSE THAT CAN WITHSTAND THE HULK'S ONSLAUGHT!! ALL THINGS FALL BEFORE MY SUPREME MIGHT!!
10

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

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LYNBROOK, NEW YORK Dept WR-60

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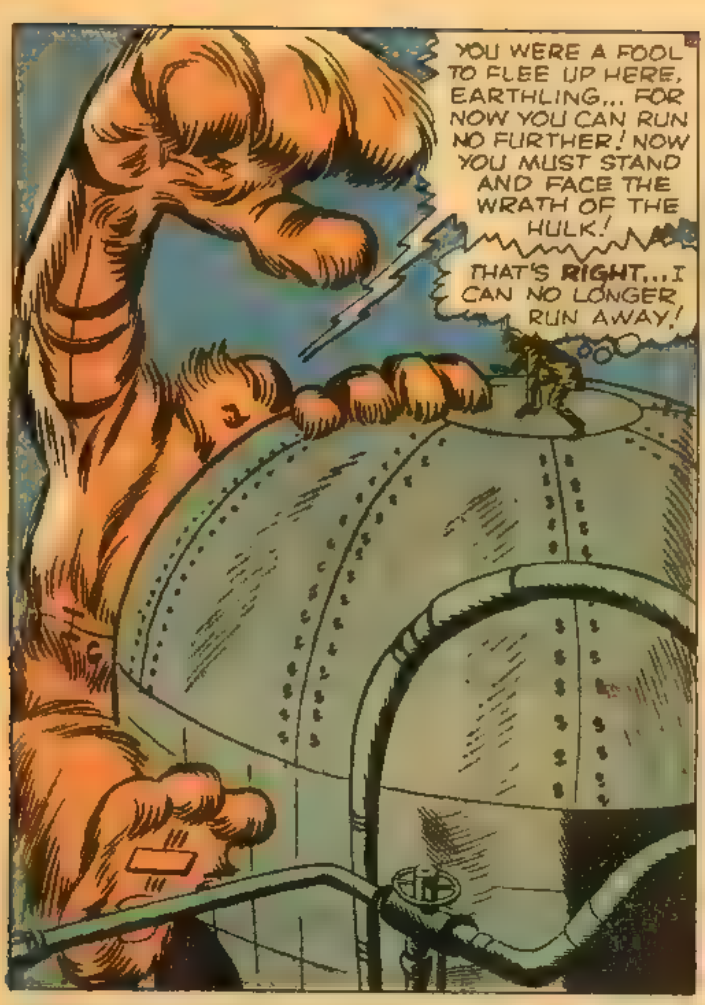
WITH THE STATUE SMASHED TO SMITHEREENS, I HAD TO TURN AND RUN AGAIN! BUT AS I RAN, I SAW IT UP AHEAD--JUST THE KIND OF PLACE I HAD BEEN FRANTICALLY HOPING TO FIND!
AN OIL REFINERY! I COULDN'T ASK FOR ANYTHING BETTER THAN THAT!
WITH THE COLOSSAL HULK CLOSING THE GAP BETWEEN HUNTER AND HUNTED, I RACED INTO THE OIL REFINERY, HEADING FOR ONE OF THE HUGE DRUMS...
UP ON TOP--THAT'S WHERE THE TOWERING GIANT AND I WILL HAVE OUR DATE WITH DESTINY!
HERE HE COMES... MY PLAN MUST WORK! IT MUST!!


YOU WERE A FOOL TO FLEE UP HERE, EARTHLING... FOR NOW YOU CAN RUN NO FURTHER! NOW YOU MUST STAND AND FACE THE WRATH OF THE HULK!
THAT'S RIGHT...I CAN NO LONGER RUN AWAY!

MY HEART POUNDED AS THE GIGANTIC MENACE CAME CLOSER AND CLOSER... WITHIN SECONDS, ONE OF US WOULD BE DESTROYED! WHICH ONE WOULD IT BE? WHICH ONE??
YOU FEARFULLY BACK AWAY.. BUT IT CAN DO YOU NO GOOD! YOU ARE TRAPPED, EARTHLING! THE HULK HAS YOU COMPLETELY AT HIS MERCY!! AND FROM THE HULK, THERE IS NO MERCY!! HAH! HAH! HAH!!

AND THEN, WHEN I COULD RETREAT NO FURTHER, THE GOLIATH UTTERED THE WORDS I HAD BEEN WAITING FOR-- HOPING FOR -- PRAYING FOR!!
I COULD CRUSH YOU LIKE AN INSECT, BUT THAT WOULD NOT APPEASE MY WRATH! NO-- I SHALL PUNISH YOU AS NO CREATURE HAS EVER BEFORE BEEN PUNISHED! I SHALL HYPNOTIZE YOUR VERY ATOMS --AND MAKE THEM FALL APART!! YOU WILL BE DISINTEGRATED --REDUCED TO NOTHING!

THEN, WHEN THE HULK FOCUSED HIS EYES UPON ME-- THE VERY INSTANT HE EMITTED HIS STAGGERING HYPNOTIC ENERGY-- I WHIPPED OUT MY "WEAPON" AND TRAINED IT ON HIM!!
THAT WHICH YOU HOLD-- WHAT?? -- NO, NO!! PUT IT AWAY!! PUT IT AWAY!!
12

TAKE IT AWAY!! YOU MUST...
NO, MIGHTY HULK, I WILL NOT SPARE YOU...
WHILE YOU LIVE, THIS ENTIRE PLANET--THIS ENTIRE UNIVERSE--IS IN DANGER! YOU MUST BE DESTROYED...
DESTROYED, SO THAT DECENT, WORTHWHILE LIFE CAN SURVIVE! SO THAT MAN CAN WALK WITHOUT FEAR!
AND NOW AT LAST YOU'RE GONE... FOREVER!
IT WAS MY ONE CHANCE! I COUNTED ON THE HULK'S THIRST FOR REVENGE! I KNEW HE WOULDN'T BE SATISFIED TO DEFEAT ME BY BRUTE STRENGTH ALONE--HE WOULD HAVE TO TRIUMPH THRU HIS MOST AWESOME POWER--THE POWER OF HYPNOTISM!
AND SO, HE USED HIS MIGHTY HYPNOTIC POWER AGAINST ME... POWER WHICH I BOOMERANGED RIGHT BACK AT HIM...
... BY MEANS OF MY OWN "WEAPON", THIS SIMPLE MIRROR!
13
BEFORE I LEFT PINEVILLE, I MADE A PROMISE TO THE TOWNSFOLK...
IF THE WORLD LEARNED ABOUT THE HULK AND WHAT HAPPENED HERE, OUR VALLEY WOULD BE OVER-RUN WITH TOURISTS AND CURIOSITY SEEKERS!
I UNDERSTAND! I'LL NEVER REVEAL WHAT TOOK PLACE HERE! ONLY YOU AND I WILL EVER KNOW THE TRUTH!
AND THAT'S WHY WHEN I RETURNED HOME... WHEN I WAS GREETED BY THOSE SCOFFING, SKEPTICAL REPORTERS, I SUPPRESSED ALL TEMPTATION, AND MERELY SMILED AS I SAID...
YOU WERE RIGHT ALL THE TIME, BOYS! THERE IS NO SUCH CREATURE AS THE HULK!
I KNOW THAT FOR SURE NOW!
THE END

'SWINGINGEST' WAY TO SAVE!

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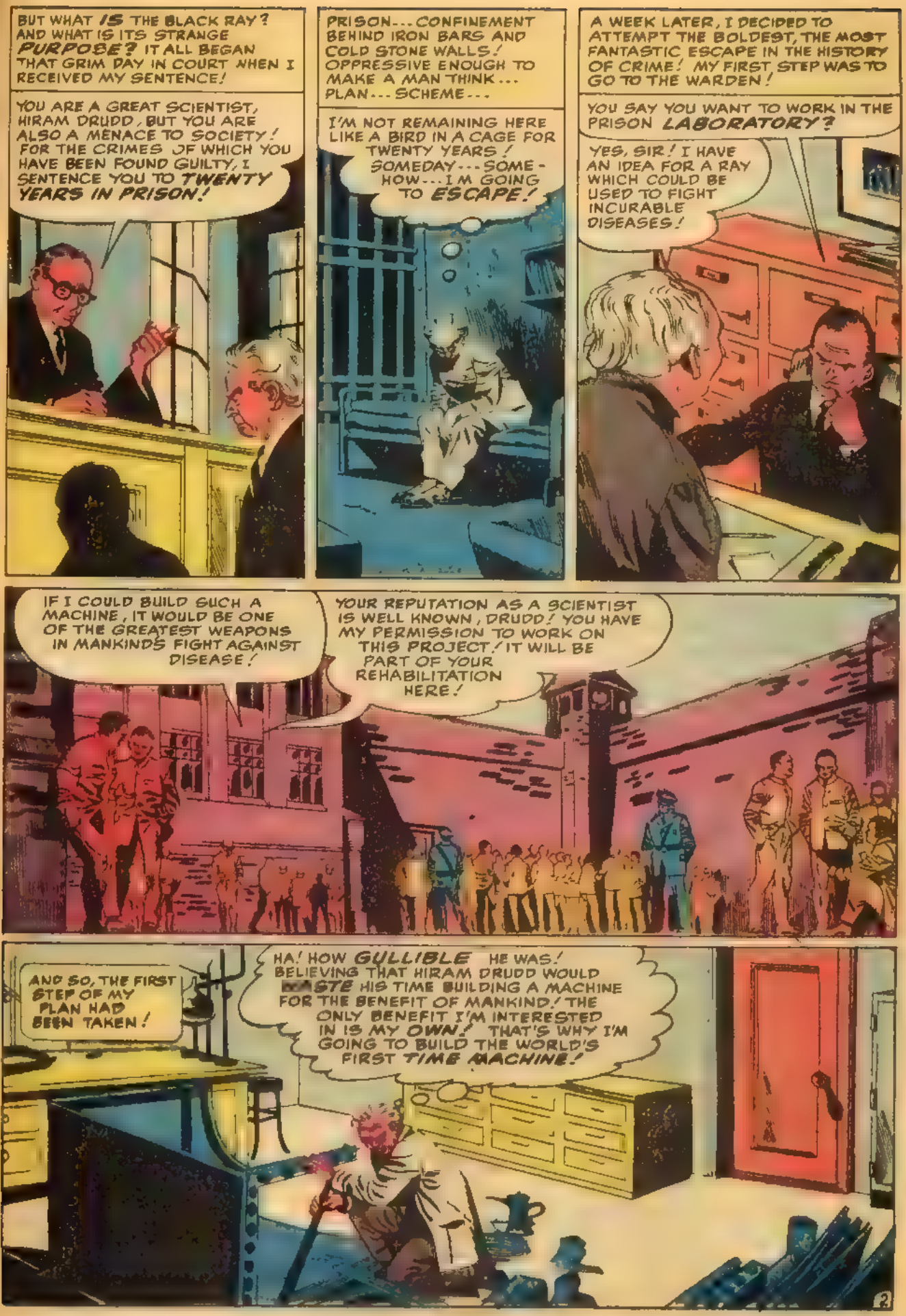
THE BLACK RAY

OUR SCENE OPENS INSIDE A LARGE PRISON...
HE'S LOCKED THE DOOR!
BREAK IT IN, QUICK, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
LIBRARY
LOOK... THERE HE IS!
HE'S PULLING THE SWITCH!
CRASH!
V-104
PAUL REINMAN
BEFORE THE GUARDS CAN TAKE ANOTHER STEP, THE MACHINE IS ACTIVATED, CREATING, INCREASING AND EMITTING THE STRANGEST, MOST POWERFUL ENERGY IN THE WORLD... THE BLACK RAY!!
V-104


BUT WHAT IS THE BLACK RAY? AND WHAT IS ITS STRANGE PURPOSE? IT ALL BEGAN THAT GRIM DAY IN COURT WHEN I RECEIVED MY SENTENCE!
YOU ARE A GREAT SCIENTIST, HIRAM DRUDD, BUT YOU ARE ALSO A MENACE TO SOCIETY! FOR THE CRIMES OF WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN FOUND GUILTY, I SENTENCE YOU TO TWENTY YEARS IN PRISON!
PRISON... CONFINEMENT BEHIND IRON BARS AND COLD STONE WALLS! OPPRESSIVE ENOUGH TO MAKE A MAN THINK... PLAN... SCHEME...
I'M NOT REMAINING HERE LIKE A BIRD IN A CAGE FOR TWENTY YEARS! SOMEDAY... SOMEHOW... I'M GOING TO ESCAPE!
A WEEK LATER, I DECIDED TO ATTEMPT THE BOLDEST, THE MOST FANTASTIC ESCAPE IN THE HISTORY OF CRIME! MY FIRST STEP WAS TO GO TO THE WARDEN!
YOU SAY YOU WANT TO WORK IN THE PRISON LABORATORY?
YES, SIR! I HAVE AN IDEA FOR A RAY WHICH COULD BE USED TO FIGHT INCURABLE DISEASES!
IF I COULD BUILD SUCH A MACHINE, IT WOULD BE ONE OF THE GREATEST WEAPONS IN MANKIND'S FIGHT AGAINST DISEASE!
YOUR REPUTATION AS A SCIENTIST IS WELL KNOWN, DRUDD! YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION TO WORK ON THIS PROJECT! IT WILL BE PART OF YOUR REHABILITATION HERE!
AND SO, THE FIRST STEP OF MY PLAN HAD BEEN TAKEN!
HA! HOW GULLIBLE HE WAS! BELIEVING THAT HIRAM DRUDD WOULD WASTE HIS TIME BUILDING A MACHINE FOR THE BENEFIT OF MANKIND! THE ONLY BENEFIT I'M INTERESTED IN IS MY OWN! THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO BUILD THE WORLD'S FIRST TIME MACHINE!
2

NO ONE HAS EVER SUCCEEDED IN BUILDING A TIME MACHINE, BECAUSE ALL WHO TRIED HAD THE WRONG IDEA! THEY ALL TRIED TO GO BACK INTO TIME AS THEMSELVES! BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! NO ONE CAN GO BACK IN TIME AS HIMSELF!--- BECAUSE IF HE NEVER EXISTED IN THE PAST BEFORE, HE CAN'T EXIST THERE NOW!
THE ONLY WAY ONE CAN TRAVEL BACK INTO THE PAST IS TO BECOME SOMEONE WHO ACTUALLY LIVED IN THE PAST--- TO TAKE THAT PERSON'S IDENTITY!--- AS I AM GOING TO DO!
WHEN I COMPLETE THIS MACHINE, IT WILL GENERATE A BLACK ELECTROMAGNETIC RAY CAPABLE OF DISSOLVING MY BODY AND SENDING MY LIFE FORCE BACK INTO THE PAST TO TAKE OVER THE IDENTITY OF SOMEONE ELSE!
FOR WEEKS, I LABORED OVER MY MACHINE! OFTEN THE GUARDS WOULD ENTER THE LAB TO CHECK UP ON ME, BUT THEIR LACK OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE MADE IT EASY FOR ME TO DECEIVE THEM!
HOW'S IT COMING, DRUDD?
FINE! BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, I'LL BE FINISHED WITH THE MACHINE! THEN MEDICINE WILL HAVE THE GREATEST BOON OF THE CENTURY!
THE FOOL.. LITTLE DOES HE REALIZE I'M BUILDING THE INSTRUMENT FOR MY ESCAPE! A MACHINE THAT'S GOING TO TAKE ME OUT OF THIS DULL PRISON AND SEND ME BACK INTO THE PAST, WHERE I'LL BE FREE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!
BUT I HAD UNDERESTIMATED ONE OF THE GUARDS!
THAT FELLOW'S BEEN WATCHING ME FOR ALMOST AN HOUR! I'M CERTAIN HE SUSPECTS SOMETHING! I MUST WORK FASTER... MUST FINISH THE MACHINE BEFORE I'M STOPPED!

WHILE I WAS RUSHING TO COMPLETE MY MACHINE, THE GUARD WAS TELLING HIS SUSPICIONS TO THE WARDEN...
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE THAT A CRIMINAL LIKE HIRAM DRUDD WOULD WORK SO EAGERLY.. SO HAPPILY--- TO BUILD AN INSTRUMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF MANKIND! I THINK HE'S UP TO SOMETHING ELSE, WARDEN!
HMM, I WONDER...
WARDEN!
I WAS MAKING MY ROUNDS... BUT WHEN I CAME TO THE LABORATORY, I COULDN'T GET IN! DRUDD'S LOCKED THE DOOR FROM THE INSIDE!
WHAT??!
I KNEW IT! I KNEW HE WAS UP TO NO GOOD!
WHATEVER DRUDD'S PLAN IS, I HOPE WE'RE IN TIME TO STOP HIM!
THEY'LL BE HERE ANY SECOND... MACHINE'S ALL FINISHED... I'LL JUST SET THE CONTROLS TO TAKE ME A FEW HUNDRED YEARS INTO THE PAST AND ENABLE ME TO TAKE OVER THE IDENTITY OF THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD AT THAT TIME! I MIGHT AS WELL GET ALL I CAN GET OUT OF MY INVENTION!
THEY'RE HERE! I MUST START THE MACHINE --- NOW!
THE INSTANT I PULLED THE SWITCH, THE RAY CAME ON... A STEADY BLACK STREAM OF ELECTROMAGNETIC ENERGY, BATHING ME, ENGULFING ME --
4

THAT RAY... IT'S MAKING DRUDD DISAPPEAR!
I SEE HIM VANISHING, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT! IT MUST BE SOME KIND OF TRICK! AN ILLUSION!
IT... IT'S NO TRICK! IT'S ALL REAL! IT'S HORRIBLY REAL!
DRUDD IS GONE!
AND THE RAY HAS STOPPED! IT'S DONE ITS JOB AND IT'S FINISHED!
AS FOR ME, BACK I WENT INTO TIME... MELTING INTO THE PAST... DRIFTING THROUGH BYGONE DAYS... PASSING EVENTS IN THE TIME OF MY FATHER... MY GRANDFATHER... MY GREAT GRANDFATHER.. BACK.. BACK. BACK ..
UNTIL FINALLY MY LIFE FORCE CONTACTED, OVERWHELMED, AND CONQUERED THE PERSONALITY OF A MAN LIVING TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS AGO!
OHH... MY HEAD... I.. I'VE DONE IT... I'VE TRAVELED INTO THE PAST... AND NOW I'M IN CONTROL OF THE RICHEST MAN... B-BUT WAIT...
SOMETHING WENT WRONG! T-THIS PLACE... WHAT AM I DOING IN HERE? NO! NO! IT'S A HORRIBLE MISTAKE! THE TIME MACHINE BROUGHT ME INTO THE PAST...
BUT IT BROUGHT ME TO THE WRONG PERSON! IT PUT ME INTO THE FIGURE OF A COMMON CRIMINAL, INSTEAD OF THE WORLD'S RICHEST MAN! HOW COULD THIS MISTAKE HAVE HAPPENED?!!
BUT MY FRIEND, YOU ARE THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD! AND IN 20 YEARS, WHEN YOUR SENTENCE IS OVER, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CLAIM YOUR WEALTH!
FOR ARE YOU NOT IN TRUTH THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO?
MY HEART SUNK AS I REALIZED I HAD TRAVELLED 250 YEARS BACK IN TIME TO ESCAPE... BUT I STILL HAD THE SAME TWENTY-YEAR SENTENCE IN STORE FOR ME! I KNOW NOW, THERE IS NO ESCAPE... FROM FATE!
END

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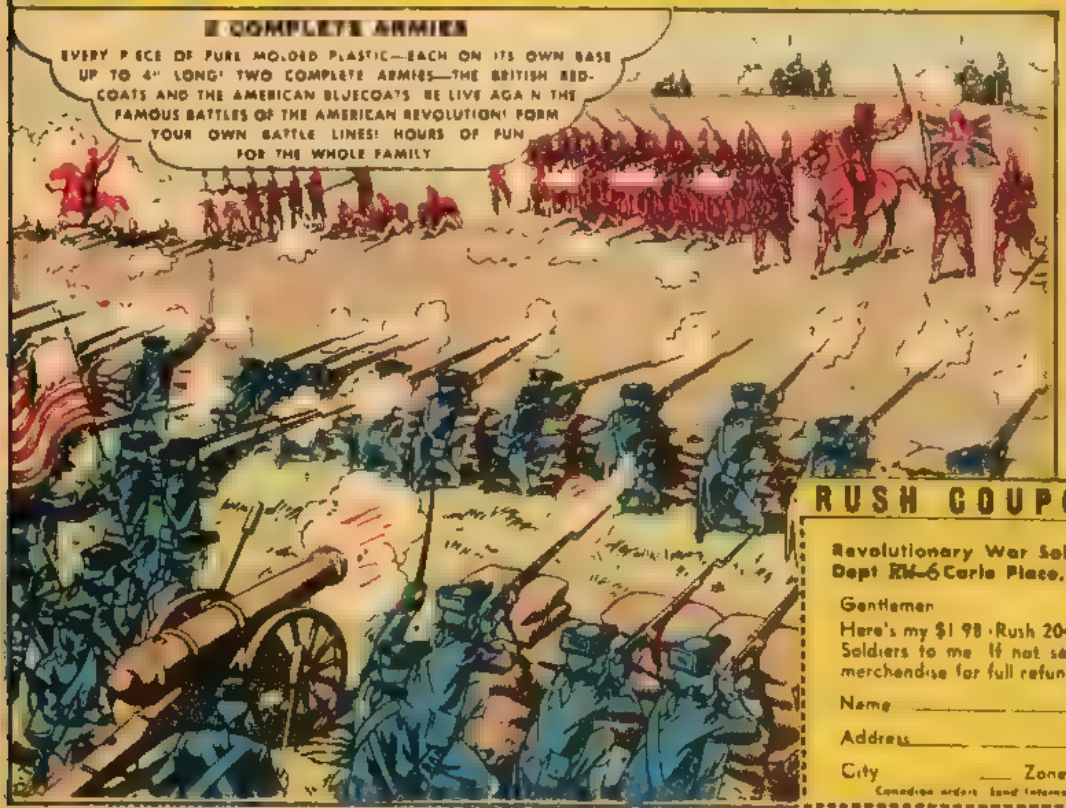
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scurried into the next room, the mother turned accusing eyes on the stranger. "You ought to be ashamed of yourself. You have an excellent talent and could earn a nice living. Yet you choose to be a hobo, humbling yourself . . ."

Her words broke off suddenly as she overheard the animated chatter coming from the next room. She heard her son Bobby's shrill laughter and the comical voice that answered it. "I remember the time we were passing through Frisco," Oswald was explaining. "Harry liked the climate and was tempted to settle down. But *I* like a vagabond's life. I like new places, new people, new sights and new smells. I get tired now and then, but Harry's wonderful. He never complains. He puts me in the basket and I travel first class, you might say."

Bobby's chuckle drowned out Oswald's last words. His mother's eyes were big as she turned to the stranger. "Harry, I'm at a loss for words. I hesitated before I let you in because I thought you were a worthless tramp. Now you've proved what an amazing talent you have. It almost sounded real. You stood in the kitchen and yet you carried on a conversation with Bobby in the living room. You threw your voice and even made Bobby believe the dog was talking to him. And even *I* couldn't see your lips move.

"Now you take some advice from me," she added sternly. "I want you to reform. I'll lend you some money for new clothes and I'll provide your carfare to New York or Hollywood where you can launch your career. You can pay me back later, for I know you'll be a smash hit. If it will make you feel better, Bobby will care for your dog, since you seem to value him so much."

Harry shrugged. "Always rebuffed. Always disbelieved. Always nagged or driven away. But, maybe it's for the best. Perhaps that's my only way out. I hate to leave Oswald, but maybe Bobby will want him as a friend."

Bobby agreed. Oswald's head drooped a bit, but silently, he seemed to understand. Bobby's mother smiled in satisfaction. And Harry, after declining her kind offer of financial help, just kissed Oswald good-bye and choked up. He walked outside into the Autumn wind and they watched him trudge dejectedly down the road, his hands deep in his pockets, his chin buried in his chest.

"Poor fellow. It's a terrible thing when a fellow human won't believe a word he says. A man's nothing unless he has a friend who has faith in him. Maybe it'll be easier now that he won't have to try to explain. *Maybe it's better that he left me behind!*" Oswald sighed sympathetically.

Now, some folks think *Bobby's* a very talented boy!

THE END H-92

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, JULY 2, 1946 AND JUNE 11, 1960 (74 Stat 208)

SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY, published monthly, at New York, N. Y., for October 1, 1960.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, MARTIN GOODMAN, 655 Madison Ave., N.Y.C. Editor, STAN LEE, 655 Madison Ave., N.Y.C.

2. The owner is: If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.)

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3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.)

None.

4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a corporate capacity other than that of a bona fide owner.

5. The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceding the date shown above was: (This information is required by the act of June 11, 1960 to be included in all statements regardless of frequency of issue.) 167,125

(Signed) MARTIN GOODMAN

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20th day of September, 1960.

(SEAL)

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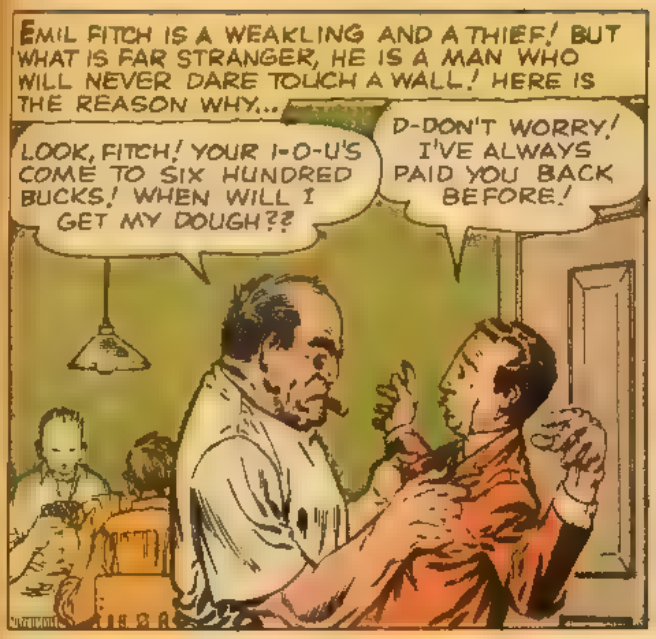
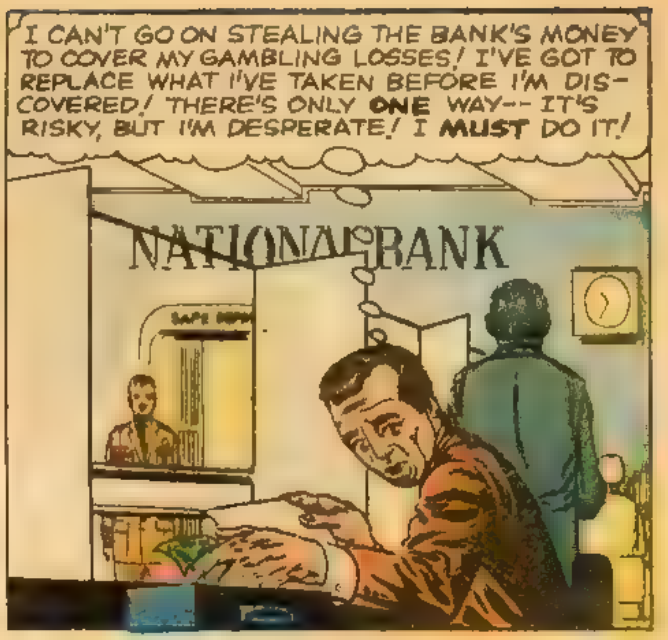
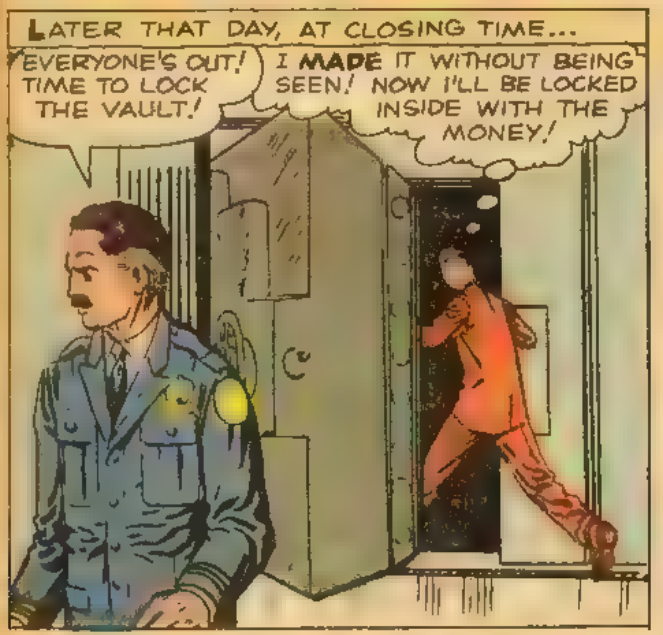
THE THING BEHIND THE WALL!

S Ditko


EMIL FITCH IS A WEAKLING AND A THIEF! BUT WHAT IS FAR STRANGER, HE IS A MAN WHO WILL NEVER DARE TOUCH A WALL! HERE IS THE REASON WHY...
LOOK, FITCH! YOUR I-O-U'S COME TO SIX HUNDRED BUCKS! WHEN WILL I GET MY DOUGH??
D-DON'T WORRY! I'VE ALWAYS PAID YOU BACK BEFORE!


I CAN'T GO ON STEALING THE BANK'S MONEY TO COVER MY GAMBLING LOSSES! I'VE GOT TO REPLACE WHAT I'VE TAKEN BEFORE I'M DISCOVERED! THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY-- IT'S RISKY, BUT I'M DESPERATE! I MUST DO IT!
NATIONAL BANK

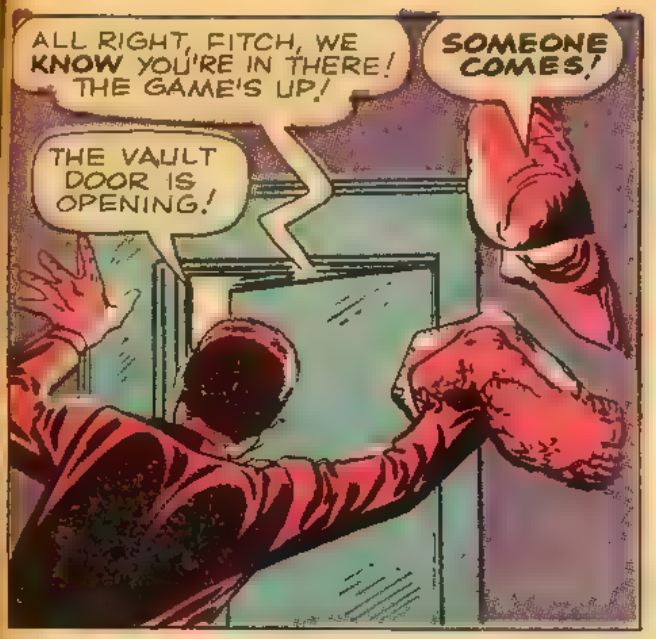

LATER THAT DAY, AT CLOSING TIME...
EVERYONE'S OUT! TIME TO LOCK THE VAULT!
I MADE IT WITHOUT BEING SEEN! NOW I'LL BE LOCKED INSIDE WITH THE MONEY!

MINUTES LATER...
NOW THAT I'M HERE, I MIGHT AS WELL TAKE AS MUCH AS I CAN CARRY!
THEY'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO TRACE THIS TO ME!

NOW TO OPEN-- GREAT SCOTT! THE VAULT CAN'T BE OPENED FROM THE INSIDE! I CAN'T GET OUT!

I'M TRAPPED! I'LL SUFFOCATE BEFORE THE DOOR IS OPENED IN THE MORNING!!

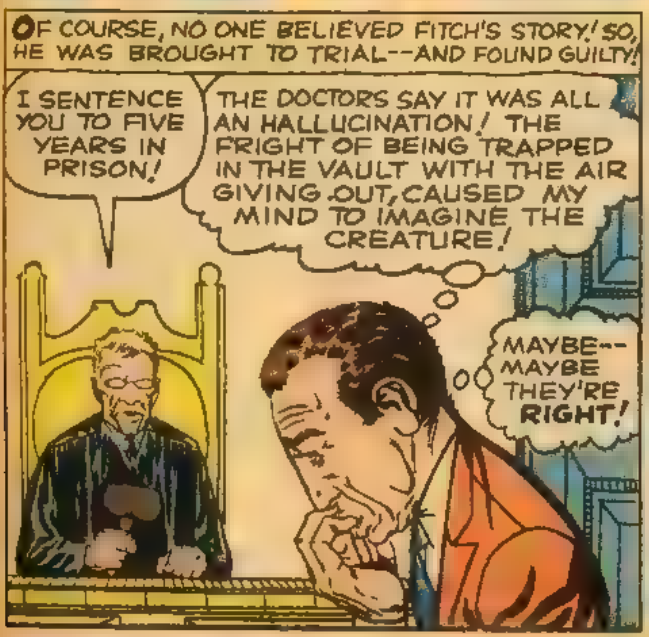
SUDDENLY!
A HUGE HAND!! COMING THROUGH THE SOLID WALL!!
I-I MUST BE GOING MAD!
NO, YOU ARE NOT MAD, MORTAL! I AM MARAK, OF THE DARK DIMENSION! LONG HAVE I WAITED FOR SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY AS THIS!
WHA--WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WE DARE NOT LET YOU MORTALS SUSPECT OUR DIMENSION EXISTS RIGHT NEXT TO YOURS! WE HAVE WAITED FOR YEARS FOR A CHANCE TO CAPTURE ONE OF YOU--WITH NO ONE SUSPECTING WHAT HAS HAPPENED!
YOU WILL BE THE KEY THAT OPENS THE DOOR FOR OUR INVASION AND CONQUEST OF YOUR DIMENSION! WE MUST HAVE A DETAILED STUDY OF WHAT KIND OF CREATURES YOU MORTALS REALLY ARE!
I WILL GIVE YOU THE POWER THAT WILL ENABLE YOU TO FOLLOW ME INTO MY DARK DIMENSION!
NO--NO! I DON'T WANT TO GO!
YOU HAVE NO CHOICE, MORTAL! COME!
I HAVE GIVEN YOU THE POWER TO WALK THRU WALLS!
NO! STOP! DON'T!
3

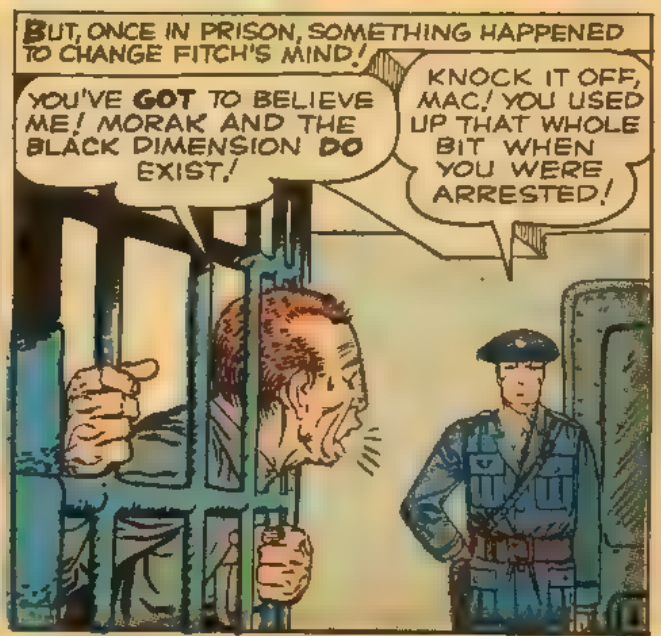

ALL RIGHT, FITCH, WE KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE! THE GAME'S UP!
SOMEONE COMES!
THE VAULT DOOR IS OPENING!

I MUST VANISH, WITHOUT YOU! NONE MUST SUSPECT MY EXISTENCE!
HE-HE'S DISAPPEARING!

WE'VE BEEN SUSPICIOUS OF YOU FOR A LONG TIME, EMIL! NOW WE'VE CAUGHT YOU RED-HANDED!
A MONSTER! BEHIND THE WALL! IT TRIED TO KIDNAP ME!

WAIT! WHAT ABOUT THE THING BEHIND THE WALL? IT'S GETTING AWAY!
I'M SURPRISED AT YOU, FITCH! DO YOU EXPECT US TO BELIEVE THAT NONSENSE?


OF COURSE, NO ONE BELIEVED FITCH'S STORY! SO, HE WAS BROUGHT TO TRIAL--AND FOUND GUILTY!
I SENTENCE YOU TO FIVE YEARS IN PRISON!
THE DOCTORS SAY IT WAS ALL AN HALLUCINATION! THE FRIGHT OF BEING TRAPPED IN THE VAULT WITH THE AIR GIVING OUT, CAUSED MY MIND TO IMAGINE THE CREATURE!
MAYBE--MAYBE THEY'RE RIGHT!


BUT, ONCE IN PRISON, SOMETHING HAPPENED TO CHANGE FITCH'S MIND!
YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME! MORAK AND THE BLACK DIMENSION DO EXIST!
KNOCK IT OFF, MAC! YOU USED UP THAT WHOLE BIT WHEN YOU WERE ARRESTED!

THEY WON'T BELIEVE ME! FOR A WHILE, I ALSO THOUGHT IT WAS JUST ALL IN MY MIND! BUT NOW I KNOW THE DARK DIMENSION REALLY EXISTS!
AT FIRST THERE WERE JUST THE NIGHTMARES..
I CANNOT EXPOSE MYSELF, BUT YOU CAN ESCAPE YOUR PRISON--WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
NO! NO!
BUT THEN, EVEN DURING THE DAY I HEARD HIS VOICE--RIGHT THRU THE SOLID WALLS!
THE VOICE! I HEAR IT AGAIN!
YOU CAN ESCAPE YOUR PRISON! I HAVE SHOWN YOU HOW! I AM WAITING-- WAITING--
WHY DOESN'T IT STOP? IT'S JUST SOMETHING I IMAGINED! WHY DO I KEEP HEARING THE VOICE??
AND AT THAT MOMENT, AS I POUNDED MY FIST UPON THE WALL, I KNEW I HADN'T IMAGINED IT! I KNEW IT WAS TRUE! I HAD BEEN GIVEN THE POWER TO JOIN MORAK-- MORAK, WHO WOULD ALWAYS BE WAITING!
I THREW MYSELF BACK INTO THE CELL BEFORE HE COULD SEIZE ME! AND HERE I REMAIN, WONDERING, DOUBTING, TRYING TO LEARN WHETHER I IMAGINED THAT, TOO! THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT FOR SURE WHETHER MORAK EXISTS OR NOT! THAT IS TO AGAIN STRIKE A WALL--BUT I DARE NOT DO IT! WOULD YOU? WOULD YOU??
5

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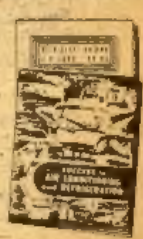

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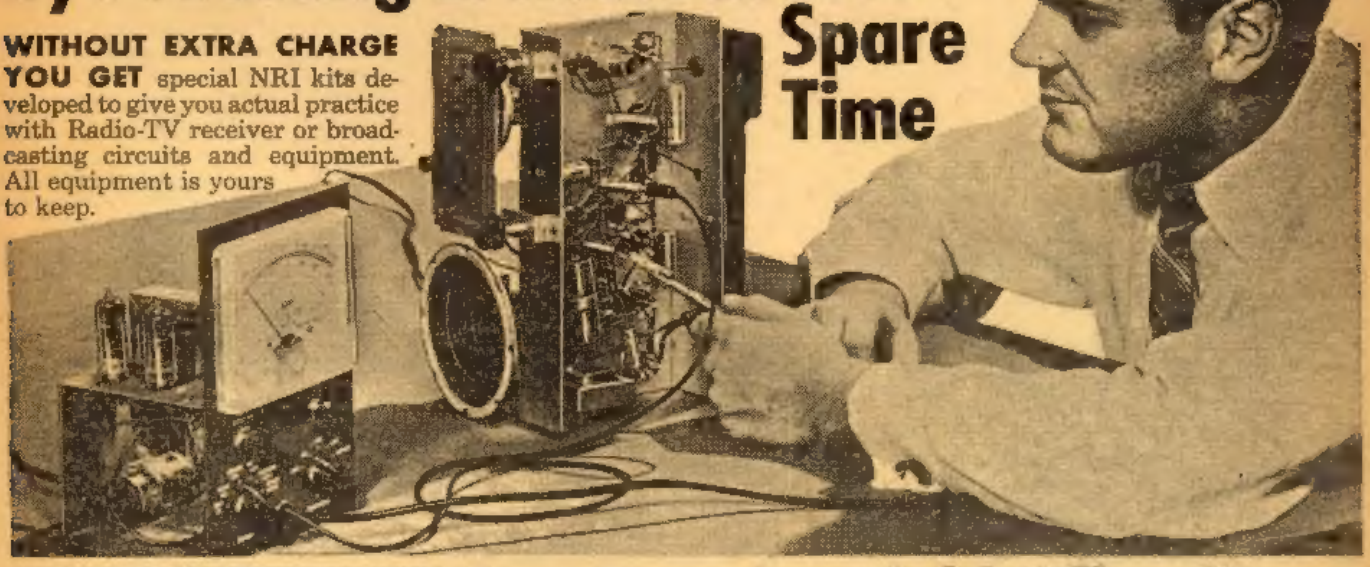

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